

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A brush mounting structure for a cutting table in an automatic cutting machine, the brush mounting structure comprising at least one cut-support surface brush mounted onto a brush mount, the brush hairs of the cut-support surface brush forming a cutting surface for a sheet material, the cutting machine having a suction mechanism, disposed under the brush mount, for suctioning the sheet material put on the cut-support surface, and a cutting device disposed over the cut-support surface and adapted to be movable to any selected position so that the sheet material on the cut-support surface can be cut to a desired shape by movement of the cutter device, the cut-support surface for the sheet material being adapted to be movable as a conveyor to carry out the sheet material after cut;

wherein the cut-support surface brush has a number of hard hairs at an upper side of a base thereof having air suction holes and has a plurality of rows of projections at a reverse side of the same, the projections of the brush being detachably engageable with and movable with respect to the brush mount, wherein the brush and brush mount are arranged to travel along an endless chain of the cutting table, in use, and have a front end and a rear end relative to the direction of travel, and wherein the brush is movable with respect to the brush mount in a side to side direction relative to the direction of travel;

wherein the projections include an engaging projection having an engaging surface formed in a front row of projections of the brush which is configured differently than an engaging surface of a back row of projections and which is adapted to be hooked more firmly than an the engaging surface of ~~[[a]]~~ the back-row projection and which serves as a holding surface to prevent undesired release of the engagement between the brush and the brush mount against a load applied from a direction normal to the cut support surface, and

wherein the mount includes an engaging rib having an engaging surface confronting the engaging surface of the back row of projection of the brush, and a holding rib having a holding surface which confronts the engaging surface of the front row of engaging projection of the

brush and wherein the holding rib is configured differently than the engaging rib and is adapted to be hooked more firmly than the engaging surface of the engaging rib;

such that when a rear portion of the brush is lifted, the back row projection releases from the engaging rib enabling disengagement of the brush from the mount, but when the brush is lifted at a front end thereof, it is hooked more firmly and not so easily disengaged as when lifted at the rear portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The brush mounting structure according to claim 1, wherein an auxiliary rib via which a back side of the engaging projection formed in the cut-support-surface brush is guided is formed in the brush mount at a location behind the holding rib, so that a load applied from the front side of the brush is born on the auxiliary rib.

3. (Previously Presented) The brush mounting structure according to claim 1, wherein an auxiliary projection is formed in the cut-support-surface brush at a location behind the engaging projection, so that a load applied from the front side of the brush is born on the auxiliary projection, while also an auxiliary rib via which a back side of the auxiliary projection is guided is formed in the brush mount.

4. (Currently Amended) A brush mounting structure for an automatic cutting machine including a cutting surface defined by at least one brush mounted on a brush mount, wherein the brush and the brush mount are carried on an endless chain and the brush has a front portion and a rear portion relative to the direction of travel, the brush mounting structure comprising:

a front row of engaging projections formed adjacent the front portion of the brush and extending from a reverse side of the brush opposite the side that defines the cutting surface;

a rear row of clamping projections formed adjacent the rear portion of the brush and extending from the reverse side of the brush;

a holding rib extending from the brush mount and engageable with the front row of engaging projections; and

an engaging rib extending from the brush mount and engageable with the rear row of engaging projections,

wherein the engaging projections of the front row are configured differently than the ~~engaging~~ clamping projections of the rear row and the holding rib is configured differently than the engaging rib such that engagement of the front row of engaging projections with the holding rib provides a stronger resistance against a separating force applied transversely to the cutting surface at the front portion of the brush than engagement of the rear row of ~~engaging~~ clamping projections with the engaging rib provides against a separating force applied transversely to the cutting surface at the rear portion of the brush.

5. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said engaging surface of said front row of projections and said holding surface of said holding rib have cooperating L-shapes, and said engaging surface of said back row of projections and said engaging surface of said engaging rib have cooperating oblique shapes.

6. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 4, wherein said front row of engaging projections and said holding rib have cooperating L-shapes, and said rear row of clamping projections and said engaging rib have cooperating oblique shapes.

7. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising:
one or more intermediate rows of engaging projections extending from the brush between the front row of projections and the back row of projections; and
one or more engaging ribs having engaging surfaces extending from the brush mount and configured to be engageable with said one or more intermediate rows of engaging projections,
wherein said engaging surface of said intermediate row of projections and said engaging surface of said engaging rib engageable with said intermediate row of engaging projections have cooperating oblique shapes.

8. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 4, further comprising:

one or more intermediate rows of clamping projections extending from the reverse side of the brush between the front row of engaging projections and the rear row of clamping projections; and

one or more engaging ribs extending from the brush mount and configured to be engageable with said one or more intermediate rows of clamping projections,

wherein said intermediate row of clamping projections and said engaging ribs engageable with said intermediate row of clamping projections have cooperating oblique shapes.

9. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 4, wherein said holding rib includes a holding surface that is substantially parallel to the direction of travel,

said engaging projection include a holding surface configured to confront the holding surface of the holding rib,

said engaging rib includes smooth obliquely extended engaging surface, and

said clamping projections include a smooth, inclined engaging surface configured to engage the engaging surface of a corresponding engaging rib.

10. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said back row of projections and said engaging rib are more resilient than said front row of projections and said holding rib.

11. (New) The brush mounting structure of claim 4, wherein said rear row of clamping projections and said engaging rib are more resilient than said front row of engaging projections and said holding rib.